



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Idaho SAT *School-day* and ACCUPLACER Testing

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QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SAT

Who is paying for the Idaho SAT school-day test?

The State Department of Education has entered into a contract with The College Board to deliver the SAT or the ACCUPLACER beginning in spring 2012. What this means is that the state will pay for **a one day administration of the SAT**, a make-up day for the SAT, or the ACCUPLACER online diagnostic testing for 11th grade public school students.

If a student wishes to register for/take the ACT, COMPASS, a Saturday SAT test, or a 2nd/3rd round of SAT testing, then that is possible, however the student must pay for that themselves. A student will only have to take one of the tests to meet the graduation requirements.

What does school-day mean?

School-day means that the State Department of Education has entered into a contract with the College Board to deliver the SAT test on a school day. Otherwise, regular SAT testing would be on a Saturday. The Idaho SAT school day will always refer to testing on the Idaho test day below and not any other SAT administration date.

What is the date for the Idaho SAT school-day test?

SAT School-day Testing: **Wednesday, April 18, 2012**

SAT School Day Make up day: **Thursday, April 26, 2012**

ACCUPLACER Testing: **March 26 - May 4, 2012 (online)**

Is there an Idaho SAT Make-Up testing day?

Yes. Students, who miss the April 18th testing date, will automatically be enrolled for the Make Up day testing on **Thursday, April 26, 2012**. If a student still cannot make the April 26th make up day, the College Board will work with the school/student to allow testing on a subsequent SAT Saturday testing. Transportation to the Saturday testing would be at the expense of the student. If a student needs to test on a Saturday, students must work directly with the College Board.



Why the SAT?

After a thorough evaluation of the ACT and The College Board and discussions on multiple levels, the Idaho State Department of Education decided to award a contract to The College Board.

How long is the contract with the College Board?

The state has entered into a one-year contract with 2 optional renewal years.

Is SAT testing required?

Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, all 11th graders must take a college entrance exam (the SAT, ACT, COMPASS or ACCUPLACER) to meet high school graduation requirements.

** Idaho Administrative Code 08.02.03.105.03 DRAFT – will go to the 2012 Legislative session*

03. College Entrance Examination. (Effective for all public school students who enter high school at the 9th grade level in fall 2009 or later.) A student must take one (1) of the following college entrance examinations before the end of the student's eleventh grade year: COMPASS, ACCUPLACER, ACT or SAT. Scores must be included in the Learning Plan.

a. Students may elect an exemption from the college entrance exam requirement if they are

- i. Enrolled in a special education program and have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that specifies accommodations not allowed for a reportable score on the approved tests; or
- ii. Enrolled in a Limited English Proficient (LEP) program for three (3) academic years or less.

Can a student take the ACT instead of the SAT?

Yes. A student can take the ACT to meet the high school graduation requirement; however the cost of the ACT testing will not be paid for by the state.

Can a student be exempt from the college entrance exam requirement?

The Board Rule states that students may elect an exemption from the college entrance exam requirement if they are 1) Enrolled in a special education program and have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that specifies accommodations not allowed for a reportable score on the approved tests; or 2) Enrolled in a Limited English Proficient (LEP) program for three (3) academic years or less.

Are Private School Students eligible for the Idaho SAT school-day test?

No. Private school students are not eligible to take the SAT school day administered at the state level. Private schools may enter into their own contract with the College Board or may register for an SAT Saturday testing day at their own cost.

Are Dual Enrolled Students eligible for the Idaho SAT school-day test?

Yes. Dual enrolled students are eligible to register for the Idaho SAT school day and must register through the local high school. Dual enrolled students will test at their home school of record.

**Are Home School students eligible to register for the Idaho SAT school-day test?**

Home School students may register for the Idaho SAT School Day test (April 18, 2012), however they will be required to register and pay the College Board directly online, by paper or by phone. In addition, the school where the home school student desires to test may charge an additional administrative fee, as determined by the school. This policy is consistent with Idaho's ISAT testing policy for home school students. In addition, the Idaho SAT school-day is an initiative for students to meet the high school graduation requirement. Home school students are not required to meet the state graduation requirements.

How can a Virtual School set up test sites across the state?

Virtual schools will work directly with the State Department of Education to determine the best testing arrangements for the students. The College Board will work with the State Department of Education on alternate locations.

Do Gear Up students who take the ACT need to take the SAT as well?

No. Gear Up students, or any students who take the ACT, have met the requirement and do not need to take the SAT.

What if a student has already registered for a Saturday SAT test and wants to test on the Idaho SAT school-day test?

If a student wants to transfer his/her registration from a Saturday SAT test to the State school-day test then that is possible. They will just need to contact the College Board *Customer Service line dedicated for students and parents at 1-866-756-7346* to make that change. However, should a student want to take the SAT twice, then he/she will need to register and pay for one of the tests, as the State will only pay for testing one time.

Who will be responsible to ensure the students have taken a college entrance exam and met the graduation requirement?

Each district is required to determine whether a student meets the high school graduation requirements, which includes this testing requirement.

How will each school be established as an Idaho SAT School Day Test Center?

By November, all schools should receive their Center Master Form (CMF) – the form which establishes your school as an SAT School Day Test Center. If your school has not yet received the CMF, please phone the *dedicated support line for Idaho Educators at 1-866-756-7346*.

When will the SAT Online Course be ready for the students to access?

By the end of November, all schools should receive their Online Course electronic welcome kit. If your school has not yet received the welcome kit, please call the *Online Course Support Line number: 800-416-5137*.



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How will districts be trained for the Idaho SAT School Day testing?

The College Board and the Idaho State Department of Education will communicate next steps, school requirements and testing day responsibilities through email communication, webinars and regional trainings. SAT School Day Test Center Supervisors will be sent training materials before the testing day. Webinars will be provided so that the training is consistent statewide and that security is maintained.

Fall 2011 webinars will be offered to all districts and will go over the details of rolling out the SAT and ACCUPLACER. Spring 2012 webinars will be offered to all districts to detail specifics regarding the testing day.

What will the Idaho SAT School Day testing look like?

As the test date approaches, schools will be given more information. The test is approximately 4 hours, with the writing portion included. Schools will need to determine how this will be scheduled in their building. The College Board will provide further guidance on the setting up of the school-day test during Test Center Supervisor training. In addition, a comprehensive planning guide for Idaho SAT School-Day will be provided.

Can a staff member proctor the Idaho SAT School Day test if they have a child or relative taking the SAT School Day test?

No. A staff member cannot proctor the Idaho SAT School Day test if a member of their household or immediate family is taking an SAT Program test at any test center on the same test date. The options are for the staff to not participate in the testing administration or for the student to register for the SAT on a national SAT test administration date (such as May 5th or June 2nd, 2012).

How will students register for the Idaho SAT school-day test?

All schools with 11th graders will get vouchers with printed numbers to give to the students to register. It is up to the school whether students register at school or at home. The College Board will send schools a spreadsheet with the assigned voucher numbers so that if a student loses his/her voucher/registration number, it is on file.

Is there any alignment between the SAT and the Common Core State Standards?

Yes. There was Common Core alignment study completed for all College Board assessments (ReadiStep, PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT.) All three assessments are strongly aligned with the Common Core State Standards. The alignment report can be downloaded at this link:
http://professionals.collegeboard.com/data-reports-research/cb/common_core_alignments



Why is Science not tested on the SAT?

The College Board has determined that in order to assess science, that specific subject area tests must be utilized. Not enough questions could span each area in science to determine a subject area score. Therefore the validity of a science section on the SAT would be minimal and limited to basic science.

In addition, the Idaho State Department of Education is moving in the direction of creating end of course assessments in specific areas of science. These assessments will be available for districts to use to identify student success in specific science subject area tests.

QUESTIONS REGARDING ACCUPLACER

How will counselors and students determine if a student should take SAT or ACCUPLACER?

All students are encouraged to take the SAT, as it is a college entrance exam and is accepted by most colleges and universities in the U.S. With that said, we understand that there will be a population of students that will want an option other than the SAT. Therefore, a limited number of 11th grade students will be eligible to take the ACCUPLACER diagnostic test in the spring of 2012, which will fulfill the High School graduation requirement and give counselors information for 12th grade course placement. More information on eligibility will be sent in the fall of 2011 to the school SAT Coordinators about this option.

The following guidelines will help students, districts and parents to determine who should take the ACCUPLACER Diagnostic testing:

Students are eligible to take the ACCUPLACER in lieu of the SAT if they have not met proficiency on the ISAT in Reading and/or Math, or if students, school teams and/or parents have determined that the ACCUPLACER Diagnostic test is in the best interest of the student. Students and parents must be aware that the ACCUPLACER given in the 11th grade is a Diagnostic test and not a Placement test, nor a college entrance exam. If a student takes the ACCUPLACER Diagnostic test in the 11th grade, they will be given the opportunity (optional) to take the ACCUPLACER Placement Test in the spring of their senior year, paid for by the state.

Will the state pay for students to re-take the test in their senior year?

The state will not pay for students to retake the SAT. However, as a part of the state contract, students who do not meet the college and career readiness benchmark on the SAT, or those who take the ACCUPLACER Diagnostic test will be eligible to take the ACCUPLACER Placement test in the spring of their senior year. This testing of the ACCUPLACER Placement test for seniors is purely OPTIONAL.



What are the subject areas that will be on the ACCUPLACER Diagnostic testing?

The following tests will make up the ACCUPLACER Diagnostic testing:

Writing

Sentence Skills or Reading Comprehension (depending on the students' score on the Writing Test)

Elementary Algebra

Arithmetic

Results from the diagnostic tests pinpoint students' strengths and weakness so that targeted instruction can be prescribed.

What is the timeframe for ACCUPLACER testing?

The ACCUPLACER testing will be available from March 26th-May 4th, as districts are **coordinating** with other state testing at the same time. It is recommended that a student finish the battery of tests within 5 days. However, once a student begins testing, they must finish the battery of tests within 14 days. Each test contains 40 items, is computer-adaptive and untimed. In addition, it is recommended that a student finish a subject area test within one school day. Districts must ensure that students begin testing early each day.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Is there a website that schools can go to for more information?

SDE's site: <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/assessment/SAT.htm>

The College Board's sites:

www.sat.collegeboard.org/home

www.collegeboard.org/accuplacer

Who do we contact if we have more information?

Contact the College Board's **Idaho Educator only toll free 1-866-253-0385** regarding any Idaho SAT school-day administration specific information or questions. **Parents and students needing support should call toll free Customer Service at 1-866-756-7346.**

Please contact Stephanie Martin at the State Department of Education for information specific to Idaho's testing requirement: smartin@sde.idaho.gov.



**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FROM WEBINAR SESSIONS –
11/8 & 11/16
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ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS – SAT

Where can I find all of the Idaho SAT School Day key dates, milestones and deadlines?

The Idaho SAT® School Day Monthly Checklist of Deliverables listing all key dates and deadlines is currently posted on the SDE site here:

<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/assessment/SAT.htm>. The presentation from the November 8th and 16th SAT School Day & ACCUPLACER Implementation Webinars will be emailed to all participants who registered for the session. The presentation will also be posted to the SDE site, along with a link to the live session recording by the end of November.

Who is the SAT Online Course Coordinator for our district or school? How was this determined?

These contacts were determined by the district and were included on the SAT Intake Form. Each school or district has already submitted an SAT Intake Form for each school and on this form, designated a point of contact at their school as the Online Course Coordinator.

For the SAT Online Course, will the District be able to see all schools and high school students registered for the course, or can only the SAT Online Course Coordinator from each high school see this?

Districts can create an SAT Online Course account which will allow them to report on all the schools, classes and students in their District. School administrators can report on the school as a whole, classes at their school and all students with online course access at their school. Teacher accounts can report on only the classes they create in their account and only the students enrolled in those classes. All schools in Idaho by now should have received their four administrator and ten teacher activation online course codes for their faculty. If your school requires additional codes, or if District administrators would like to create an account, please have them send a request to: satonlinecourseschool@collegeboard.org and Customer Service can assist with access and registration information. Alternatively, you can call the *Support Line number for Online Course activation code requests at: 1-800-416-5137*.

What if I am the designated SAT Online Course Coordinator and did not receive my SAT Online Course Welcome Kit?

All schools participating in the Idaho SAT School Day Offer should have received their Welcome Kits by November 16th, 2011. These welcome kits were sent electronically via email to



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each school's designated SAT Online Course Coordinators. If you are the designated online coordinator and haven't yet received your codes, please double-check your spam or junk folder as sometimes HTML emails are blocked. If you still cannot find this SAT Online Course welcome email please email: satonlinecourseshool@collegeboard.org

What if my school is not currently an SAT testing site?

In September, each district was sent a Test Center Intake form where all schools filled out this form to become a testing site. Currently, the College Board is working to establish all schools listed on the Test Center Intake form as test centers. Work is also currently underway to identify the appropriate test centers for alternative schools.

If a student self-registers online and makes an error, is there a way to correct that prior to testing date? For example, if the student uses a nickname, if their name does not match what is on their State ID #, or if the student enters a code inaccurately.

It is very important for students to register with the exact name as it appears on the identification they intend to use on test day. Students can make some changes to their registration profile prior to test day. However, a name change would require a call to The College Board's Customer Service – students cannot make a name change online. Please note that in order to register for the Idaho SAT School Day, students will need to have an email address. Students can open a free email account using any provider such as Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo, etc. *Parents and students needing support should call toll free [Customer Service at 1-866-756-7346](tel:1-866-756-7346).*

I am a designated Test Center Supervisor and have received my Test Center code for SAT School Day. I also have a different code for my test center for the national Saturday SAT test administration. Are these codes supposed to be different?

Yes. The two test center codes for the Idaho SAT School Day and the **national Saturday SAT** test administration are unique to help differentiate between a School Day test and a national test administration date. Please note that your Attending Institution (AI) code or High School code remains the same.

Is there an honoraria payment for Test Center Supervisors on the Idaho SAT School Day?

The purpose of providing honoraria is to offer compensation to school staff for taking time out of their weekend to administer the national SAT. As such, honoraria is not provided to test center staff for SAT School Day administrations.

Does the College Board have best practices they can share for Test Center Supervisors around test day school setup? Does the College Board have any recruiting suggestions? If so, when will this be shared?

Test Center Supervisor Training will begin in February and should be completed by April 4th, 2012. This training session will provide Idaho Test Center Supervisors with best practices, recruiting suggestions and other helpful information around how to set up and administer the test at their school.



If my student has previously applied for accommodations for the PSAT/NMSQT, do they need to reapply for accommodations?

Students who have applied for any College Board accommodations in past (i.e. The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) or Advanced Placement (AP) and have a current, valid College Board Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) code, do not need to re-apply for accommodations for Idaho SAT School Day. These students must provide their SSD code at the time of registration. If they do not have their SSD code, please contact the SSD Office at ssd@info.collegeboard.org or by phone at 609-771-7137 for further assistance. The College Board requires students to provide their SSD accommodations code during registration. The online portal at www.collegeboard.com/ssd guides the school staff and parents through the process.

Can a parent appeal the College Board's accommodation decision if they disagree?

Yes, parents can work directly with College Board's Services for Students with Disabilities office to resolve any issues related to accommodations. The **SSD Office can be reached at** ssd@info.collegeboard.org or by phone at 609-771-7137 for further assistance.

Are the College Board *My Organizer* and the *My College QuickStart* the same website? We currently have our juniors log into the *My College QuickStart* site. Do students use the same log-in information for *My Organizer* and *My College QuickStart*?

My Organizer and *My College QuickStart* websites are different from each other and have unique log-in information for each site.

My Organizer is a tool that organizes all of your college-planning activities on collegeboard.com, from your SAT registrations and SAT practice tests to your college list and financial aid application and can be found here:

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/index.html?student>

My College QuickStart is a site that helps students with personalized feedback, practice and college planning based on their PSAT/NMSQT results and can be found here:

<https://quickstart.collegeboard.com/posweb/login.jsp>

If my student would like to retest on another day, can he/she take the SAT test again? Will the state pay for this test?

Students can retest after the Idaho SAT School Day administration date. However, the state will only fund the Idaho SAT School Day test administration.

Is the Idaho SAT School Day an option for Seniors? Will it be paid for by SDE?

No. The Idaho SAT School Day is only for 11th graders and the SDE will not pay for 12th graders to test on the Idaho SAT School Day for the 2012 SAT.

Will students need to have their State ID (EDUID) to register for Idaho SAT School Day?

Yes. When students register for Idaho SAT School Day, students will need to have their State ID (EDUID) number.



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The ISAT window is open at the same timeline as Idaho SAT School Day; this will make it difficult to find enough computers in our building for SAT School Day testing.

SAT is a paper and pencil test, thus testing should not be an issue or conflict with use of school computer labs.

What will happen to those students who, for whatever reason, do not take an approved test before the end of their junior year, as the current legislation does not address this?

The Idaho State Department of Education will try to make concessions for them to take the test their senior year. Policy decisions on who will pay for the test still need to be worked out.

Will the SAT scores for dual-enrolled students be added to their schools' scores? I understand that a student must be enrolled in a core class in order for his or her ISAT scores to be considered part of the school's data. Is this formula being considered?

Yes, the school will receive all student scores connected to the school. However, at this time no statewide accountability outside of whether the student tested or not will be applied to the Idaho SAT School Day.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS REGARDING ACCUPLACER

Which students does the SDE believe will take the ACCUPLACER diagnostic instead of the SAT? Which students should take the ACCUPLACER placement?

Students are eligible to take the ACCUPLACER in lieu of the SAT if they have not met *proficiency* on the ISAT in Reading and/or Math, or if students, school teams and/or parents have determined that the ACCUPLACER Diagnostic test is in the best interest of the student.

Students and parents must be aware that the ACCUPLACER given in the 11th grade is a Diagnostic test and not a Placement test, nor a college entrance exam. If a student takes the ACCUPLACER Diagnostic test in the 11th grade, they will be given the opportunity (optional) to take the ACCUPLACER Placement Test in the spring of their senior year, paid for by the state.

Will the ACCUPLACER diagnostic fulfill the college entrance exam graduation requirement?

Yes.

Some junior colleges tell us they will not accept the ACCUPLACER as an entrance exam--they will only accept the COMPASS. Are junior colleges accepting ACCUPLACER?

Yes. The Idaho State Department of Education is working with all colleges and institutions to understand the ACCUPLACER.



How do we estimate numbers and fill out the ACCUPLACER intake form, if we are unsure about the population taking ACCUPLACER? How will it impact how many can take SAT?

The numbers being requested in fall 2011 for SAT and ACCUPLACER testing are for estimated numbers. Final numbers will be required in spring 2012. Estimated numbers for the ACCUPLACER will not impact how many students can take the SAT.

Why would we want our students to take the ACCUPLACER if it cannot be used as a placement exam for college entrance?

The ACCUPLACER Diagnostic test will count in fulfilling the High School graduation requirement. If a student takes the ACCUPLACER Diagnostic test in the 11th grade, they will be given the opportunity (optional) to take the ACCUPLACER Placement Test in the spring of their senior year, paid for by the state.

If a student takes the ACCUPLACER diagnostic in their junior year, the state will pay for ACCUPLACER in senior year, correct?

If a student takes the ACCUPLACER Diagnostic test in the 11th grade, they will be given the opportunity (optional) to take the ACCUPLACER Placement Test in the spring of their senior year, paid for by the state.

Do students taking the ISAT-Alt in place of the ISAT take the ACCUPLACER or are they exempt from the state requirement?

Students taking the ISAT-Alt are not necessarily exempt from fulfilling the College Entrance Exam requirement. IEP teams/Accommodation Coordinators must work with the College Board to see if a particular student's accommodations would produce a non-college reportable score. If so, then the student would be exempt from the state requirement.

I have students who have not passed all of their ISAT's, but most of those are on Language Usage. Do we put those students on the form for ACCUPLACER?

Not necessarily. The State Department of Education encourages students to take the SAT, however understands that the ACCUPLACER may be a more appropriate avenue for some students. The SAT is a College Entrance exam recognized by most colleges and universities in the nation, as well as scholarship organizations. The ACCUPLACER is an online assessment series, which will be made up of 2 testing sessions; 1) A required **Diagnostic Test** taken in the students' junior year that will help counselors with 12th grade course placement, and 2) An **optional College Placement Test** taken in the students' senior year that will help institutions with course placement.